

REMARKS

By way of this response, claims 1-36 and 39-71 are now pending in the present application. However, claims 12-13, 23-24, 27-28, 31-32, 34-35, and 41-69 have been withdrawn pending allowance of a generic claim. Claims 37 and 38 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 33 and 46 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

Response to Restriction Requirement

On page 2 of the Office action, the Examiner has required a restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-36, drawn to valves
- II. Claims 37-38, drawn to a crimping tool

Applicant believes that the Examiner intended to include claims 39-71 (which are also drawn to valves) as part of Group I. Assuming this is correct, in response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects Group I (claims 1-36 and 39-71) for prosecution on the merits.

Response to Species Election

The Examiner has further requested that Applicant elect a single disclosed species from each the following groups:

- I. Valves (a-n)
- II. Valve-Stent Attachment (a-y)
- III. Markers (a-b)

In response to the species election, Applicant hereby provisionally elects species (a) from Group I; species (a) from Group II; and species (a) from Group III. Applicant believes that at least claims 1-11, 14-22, 25-26, 29-30, 33, 36, 39-40, and 70-71 are readable on the elected

JAN. 17. 2006 5:42PM EDWARDS LEGAL DEPT. 949-250-6885
Application Serial No.: 10/637,882
Amdt. dated January 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 16, 2005

NO. 3230 P. 10/16

species. Claims 12-13, 23-24, 27-28, 31-32, 34-35, and 41-69 have been withdrawn pending allowance of a generic claim.

Change of Correspondence Address

Attached please find a copy of a Revocation of Power of Attorney and Appointment of New Power of Attorney filed on June 20, 2005. Please note that the Revocation of Power of Attorney does not appear on the PAIR system for the above-identified patent application. Please update the PTO records to reflect the new attorney of record and correspondence address.

Conclusion

Should the Examiner have any remaining questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the attorney of record at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/17/06



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